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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-2504

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The Honorable Ron Kirk
U.S. Trade Representative
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk,

As a representative of rural Missouri, I was terribly concerned last year when foreign nations began erecting trade barriers to prevent the import of American pork as a result of misinformation about H1N1 human influenza. In response to these international actions, the U.S. government responded quickly and forcefully in favor of American producers. I appreciate your work and the work of Secretary Vilsack on behalf of U.S. farmers.

Several months ago, China pledged to reopen its markets to American pork exports, which is good news for a U.S. pork industry that has faced tough times in recent years. China is a valuable export market for American pork products. We must do everything possible to ensure the commitment to reopen China's market is fully honored.

As you pursue solutions to this complex trade issue, please consider how important opening the Chinese market is for the men and women involved in the American pork industry. Simply put, they need this market opened as quickly as possible.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress

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